

REMARKS

In the first office action, dated June 4, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-21, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,913,613 to Ragsdale et al. (herein "Ragsdale"). Responding to the rejection of the claims under § 102, the applicant submits that Ragsdale does not disclose a locating feature element. Therefore, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

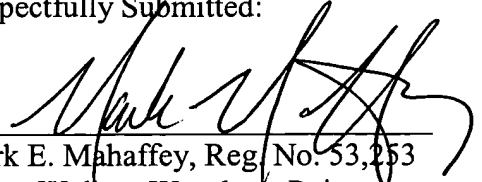
"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP § 2131 (quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The applicant submits that Ragsdale does not disclose a locating feature. Claim 1 of the application contains the following language: "at least one of said bottom and said plurality of walls having locating features . . . at least one equipment mounting assembly located in said pool cover box assembly by contacting said locating features" The application explains that "[l]ocating feature 25 is arranged to provide a pre-located stop against which a mounting assembly may be located." (Pg. 5, lines 7-9; see also element 25 in FIG. 3.) Claims 2, 6-12, 16-19, and 21 also contain the locating feature element.

There is no locating feature element in Ragsdale. Accordingly, applicant submits that Ragsdale does not anticipate claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-19, and 21 of the application. The examiner did not address the absence of this element in the first office action. The applicant submits that, for this reason, the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

For the above reasons, Applicant believes that the claims of the application are in a condition for allowance and requests the same.

Respectfully Submitted:

DATE: 11-03-03


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